

August 1966

Approved For Release 2004/02/10 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500270016-4

Spy Cases

Three Hungarians arrested last winter for spying were given stiff sentences by a Budapest military court in June. Dr. Lehel Egedy drew a 15-year prison term, his father, Dr. Elemer Egedy, ten years, and Laszlo Asboth, a teacher, 14 years. (See *East Europe*, April, p. 42.) Both prosecution and defense have appealed. During the trial, the prosecuting official strongly attacked the American CIA for its "methodical" espionage against communist countries, and further charged that the neighboring Austrians wink compliantly at American agents working on their territory.

Commenting on the trial, *Nepszabadsag* (June 4) appealed to tourists visiting the West and Hungarians traveling on official business to be especially careful not to get entangled in the CIA network. The entire population was warned to be careful when speaking with foreigners, and to guard the secrets of the state. In an editorial on June 7, *Magyar Nemzet* picked up the theme but further attacked the "the anti-popular regime whose representatives are Hungarian defectors wanting to sell their coun-

try to foreign intelligence organizations."

Yale professor John Michael Montias was accused by *Magyar Nemzet* on July 3 of spying for the CIA while ostensibly doing private research on Hungary's foreign trade. Montias visited Hungary in 1965-66 under an exchange agreement between the Institute of Cultural Relations in Hungary and the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants in the US. Montias told UPI (July 4) that he was not connected with the CIA in any way and added that he was not even a government consultant.

On June 13 the Budapest central district court opened trial against Julianna Fiat and her accomplices for foreign currency violations; she had been questioned as a witness earlier during the Egedy trial. (MTI, June 13.) Other arrests were noted of West Germans accused of trying to help relatives from East Germany escape through Hungary. Radio Budapest reported on June 7 that Thomas Seidel of Bremerhaven was being held in preliminary arrest, and reported similar cases involving Peter Kawalaki of Wiesbaden on June 23 and Georg Dehelean of Munich on June 28.